Coal shortage

1890. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of coal supply in the country, more so in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether as a result of this industrial production of iron, steel and other metals have been affected severely; and

(c) what are the reasons for this shortage despite a vast reserve of coal of 250 billion tonnes and lignite of 36 billion tonnes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) There is a gap between demand and indigenous supply of coal. This gap also affects the State of Orissa on pro-rata basis. Coal companies have taken adequate steps to enhance production from 323 million tonnes of coal during 2004-05 to 343 million tonnes projected for the year 2005-06. Despite this there is likely to be a gap of about 39 million tonnes of indigenous coal in the country. This gap is proposed to be met through imports of about 31 million tonnes and by making efforts to increase domestic production.

(b) In order to minimize the impact of shortage of coal and to help industries meet their requirement, Government has also reduced import duty to 5% for all grades of coal except coking coal with ash less than 12% on which import duty has been abolished.

(c) Production of coal is based on Annual Action Plan targets set by the Planning Commission and over the years coal companies have achieved 6% production growth. Coal production has a long gestation period. When coal production is planned based on estimated demand by the Planning Commission and the actual demand exceeds the estimation, the mismatch occurs.

Loading work in Gevara/dipka mines

†1891. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of loading in Gevara/Dipka coal mines of SECL has been entrusted to ESM (Ex-servicemen) companies;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the names of these companies;

(c) the amount paid to these companies under loading/unloading head during the last three years;

(d) the rate of loading with a Surface Miner Machine and the rate paid to the ESM companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As informed by Coal India Limited, the names of ESM companies operating in Gevara Area are given below:

1. Chhattisgarh Coal Transport (P) Ltd.
2. Dipka Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.
3. M/s Swahney Coal Transport Pvt. Ltd.
4. G.L. Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.
5. Anupama Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.
6. Gevara Coal Transport (P) Ltd.
7. Sumati Coal Transport (P) Ltd.
8. V.N. Transport (P) Ltd.
9. Korba Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.
10. Gajraj Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.
11. Arjuna Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.
12. Vindhya Coal Movers (P) Ltd.
13. H.N. Coal Transport (P) Ltd.
14. Bilaspur Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.

(c) The amount paid to ESM companies operating in Gevara/Dipka Area in loading head during he last three years is given below:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Gevara Project	18.53	20.87	26.57
Dipka Expansion	12.49	10.91	12.96

No extra amount is paid for unloading as the process is automated and is done by transporting machines.

(d) As informed by Coal India Limited, the loading of coal, cut by surface miner is being done through pay loader deployed by Ex-servicemen companies. The Ex-servicemen companies are being paid the Ex-servicemen normative surface loading rate of Rs. 6.85/Te (Tones). The rate being paid is provisional and is subject to finalisation by Industrial Engineering Department study.

Restoration of SECL area

†1892. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of SECL sector restored with sand and soil filling and plantation after the mining of the coal during last five years;

(b) the total area yet to be filled up;

(c) the plan for making alternate use of filled up area;

(d) whether such land would be handed over to its original owners for making better use of it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) SECL has back-filled 817.16 Ha. of voids in opencast mines with overburden soils during last five years and 11,17,750 number trees have been planted over back filled area.

(b) The area yet to be filled up by SECL is 1914.398 Ha.

(c) At present mainly afforestation has been planned over filled up area.

(d) and (e) It is under active consideration of SECL management to identify, demarcate and surrender exhausted/surplus mining lease/mining right to State Government within the legal framework. After surrender of the mining lease/mining right the concerned State Government has to decide regarding the allotment and alternate use of the land.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.